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Women in Development Lecture Series

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Isis Nusair

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"Gendered Bodies/Gendered Wars: Iraqi Women Refugees in Jordan"

[January](#)

Thursday, May 21, 2009

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Noon

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Mershon Center for International Security Studies

1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201

[April](#)

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Isis Nusair is Assistant Professor of International Studies and Women's Studies at Denison University.

She graduated from the Women's Studies Ph.D. Program at Clark University with a dissertation on "Gendered Politics of Location: Generational Intersections of Palestinian Women in Israel, 1948-1998."

She previously served as a researcher in the Middle East and North Africa at the Women's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch. She also worked as a researcher with the Euro-Med Human Rights Network.

Nusair also has a master's degree in Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame, and a bachelor's degree in Social Work from Tel-Aviv University.

Lecture Abstract

This presentation is based on extensive research with Iraqi women refugees in Jordan during 2007 and 2008. It traces the causes that prompted the women to leave Iraq after 2003. It also traces the transition they went through and the economic, social, and political challenges they currently face as urban refugees in Jordan.

Nusair analyzes the gendered and sexual politics of their status as

women refugees and the response of the Iraqi and Jordanian governments to their plight. She also analyzes the response of the United Nations as well as national and international aid organizations to their needs.

Finally, the presentation examines women's coping mechanisms and networks of support and the ways these women are negotiating with conditions of extreme dislocation and instability in their lives.

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